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metroSCIENCE

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 3-5, 2017

High -1°C/Low -11°C Partly cloudy

TAXI VERDICT

'It's sending such a horrible, horrible message to other victims of assault'

Leah Parsons on Judge Gregory Lenehan and his reasoning behind acquitting a Halifax cabbie of sexual assault

THE JUDGE



A petition for a formal inquiry against Lenehan is in the works — as is a protest over the verdict

VICKY MOCHAMA IN METROVIEWS

Rape culture is when women who do the right thing have to ask for justice from the wrong person

THE DRIVER

Bassam Al-Rawi will never drive for a cab company in the city again, says Halifax Taxi Association



WEEKEND SPECIALS FRI-SUN

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TAXI VERDICT IN HALIFAX

TAKING ACTION

Protests planned as complaints roll in



Cody McEachern
For Metro | Halifax

A petition is calling for an investigation against Judge Gregory Lenehan while protests over his latest verdict are being organized. A petition to launch a formal inquiry against Lenehan was launched on change.org around 11 a.m. Thursday, and by 5 p.m. it had reached 3,121 signatures, with other petitions popping up.

"Gregory Lenehan's ideas of consent are antiquated and dangerous. He should not be in a position to hand down decisions allowing sexual predators to go free," reads the petition's description.

Reactions to Lenehan's verdict, an acquittal of a taxi driver

facing sexual assault charges, have been generally negative, with hundreds of upset Haligonians voicing their opinions on Twitter and Facebook.

Multiple protests have been announced since the verdict with almost two hundred people confirmed for each, which are planned throughout next week.

"The point is to cause a disruption," said Amanda Dodsworth, who is organizing one of the protests. "We want to be seen and be heard, and what better way to do that than with a couple hundred people marching down the street. There are a lot of angry people, and they need an outlet to voice their opinion, a controlled outlet."

Dodsworth plans to hold a rally at city hall Tuesday afternoon, followed by a march to the Nova Scotia Courthouse on Spring Garden Road.

Calls to file complaints against Gregory have also spread across social media, asking people to file formal complaints to get him investigated or removed.

In an interview with the Metro, a spokesperson for the Executive Office of the Nova Scotia Judiciary declined to comment on the complaints, but said some of them had been filed incorrectly and provided the correct steps.

GENDER AND SAFETY

People offer rides for those wary of taking Halifax taxis



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

In light of a judge's not-guilty verdict on a taxi driver who had been found with an unconscious and mostly naked woman in his cab, Alana Canales said she wanted to move the conversation away from what the complainant should've done differently to, "I'm here for you if you need me."

Canales started the hashtag #HaliLadyCab Wednesday evening to identify women on Twitter who would be willing to pick up anyone for free who felt uncomfortable taking a taxi in light of Bassam Al-Rawi's acquittal, and last year's spike of alleged sexual assaults in cabs.

"I don't know if anyone will ever ask me for a ride late at night, but I do know that having me as an option is valuable," Canales said via email Thursday.

Although Al-Rawi has a condi-



Alana Canales of #HaliLadyCabs. JEFF HARPER/METRO

tional licence, it has been non-operational since the charges were laid due to a lack of documentation on his part around what company he'd drive for.

HRM is now reviewing whether Al-Rawi's licence should be revoked or reinstated in full.

Judge Gregory Lenehan's comments on how the Crown did not prove there was a "lack of consent" in the case, despite the

complainant's high intoxication level, and her DNA on Al-Rawi's mouth, don't seem "reasonable" to many, Canales said.

As of Thursday afternoon, at least six others on Twitter had added the hashtag to their bios, including Corinne Gilroy.

Gilroy said she wanted to help after she watched sexual assault case not be taken seriously by the

+ UBER

Although Uber has been brought up as an alternative to the current taxi system, Corinne Gilroy said that U.S. company has also dealt with assault allegations, and a better option would be taxi reform putting a "higher threshold" around training cab drivers, plus mechanics to ensure companies are following them. A "better solution" would be late-night buses in Halifax, removing the onus on women to travel with friends or stay home as part of the rules they're "told to do" to stay safe, Gilroy said.

judicial system and reached "a breaking point."

She also emphasized she'd happily pick up anyone who is non-binary, and might not use female pronouns since those people are often "more targeted" by personal violence, Gilroy said.

"Your civic responsibility, it has to do with how you conduct yourself every day and how you engage with people every day. And that might be the best hope we have going forward — each other," Gilroy said.

+ COMPLAINTS

For those interested in filing a complaint against a provincial judge's conduct during a court trial, more info on the process can be found at http://courts.ns.ca/about_judges/conduct_judges_prov_process.htm.

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TAXI VERDICT IN HALIFAX

“ Statements made by provincial court Judge Gregory Lenehan in his March 1 acquittal of Halifax taxi driver Bassam Al-Rawi have drawn attention to the misconceptions that still exist around sexual violence ... From our perspective, clearly a drunk person cannot consent to sexual activity. Sexual Health Nova Scotia

“ I will be reaching out to my colleague tomorrow to explore this case. I'm equally outraged.

Joanne Bernard, provincial Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act, referring to the justice minister

“ Apply the law properly, and ensure that legal reasoning and assessments of complainant's credibility aren't informed by stereotypes about drunk women.

Elaine Craig, associate law professor at Dalhousie University

“ I am deeply disturbed by the judge's comments in relation to this case ... I am offended by the decision and these dismissive comments are an insult to the thousands of people who have been sexually assaulted.

N.S. PC leader Jamie Baillie

“ We are reviewing the decision to determine whether there is a basis for appeal. We have 30 days.

Chris Hansen, spokeswoman for the Public Prosecution Service

“ When the verdict came down and the wording that Judge Lenehan used — I'm sickened by it, I really, really am. And scared, it's scary for everybody. Hannah Munday, Halifax resident and #HaliLadyCab volunteer



Cab driver Bassam Al-Rawi enters Halifax Provincial Court prior to being acquitted of sexual assault on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Leah Parsons calls for review of judge

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Gregory Lenehan also presided over Rehtaeh's case



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Leah Parsons has added her voice to those demanding a review of the Halifax judge who stated at the end of a sexual assault trial that “clearly a drunk can consent.”

Judge Gregory Lenehan made the comments during Wednesday's acquittal of cab driver Bassam Al-Rawi, who faced one charge of sexual assault related to a May 23, 2015 incident.

“It's shocking when I read that you can consent when you're drunk. Obviously the person was passed out, with urine on her clothing, a witness (police) who actually came across it. That usually doesn't happen,” Parsons said.

“So for this man to actually walk free after all of that evidence? It is just sickening. Degrading. It's sending such a horrible, horrible message to other victims of assault. How are they going to come forward?”

Parsons lost her 17-year-old daughter Rehtaeh in April 2013 following months of bullying related to an explicit photo of her and a boy that was shared around her high school. A review into how police and the Crown handled her case found “errors from start to finish.”

In the years since her daughter's death, Parsons has travelled

throughout Canada and the U.S. to advocate and raise awareness around issues of sexual violence, consent and bullying.

Lenehan is the same judge who oversaw the trial of a teen boy charged with child pornography in relation to Rehtaeh's case in January 2015. The teen was sentenced to 12 months probation.

“So now I see how it would've went for Rehtaeh if it was rape charges and it was him as the judge,” Parsons said.

“He obviously has his own perceptions about what is consent, and that is the problem we see everywhere... His mentality is clear. He should definitely be reviewed by somebody independent, somebody outside of this province. It's not good.”

Parsons said change needs to start immediately and must include proper training for police and judges in particular. She believes everyone must be on the same page regarding not only around issues of consent, but how victims behave following



Leah Parsons CONTRIBUTED

traumatic events.

“People are outraged about this (incident) because it's so blatant, it's so obvious. I posted about it on Rehtaeh's memorial page (Thursday) and the comments are blowing up because everyone is just so sick of this,” she said.

“How are (victims) going to come forward? It's terrifying enough knowing you're going to be interrogated. You're going to have to live through that, you're going to be almost interrogated as if you did something wrong. And then to have this result? It just sets us back again and again.”

+ PLACES TO TURN FOR HELP

Victims of sexual violence have a place to turn to

Sexual Health Nova Scotia issued a statement on Thursday about the Al-Rawi verdict and Judge Lenehan's comment that “clearly a drunk can consent.”

The organization said it wanted to reach out and remind victims of sexual violence that from their perspective, “clearly a drunk person cannot consent to sexual activity.”

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence, support is available at your local sexual health centre. Visit shns.ca to find one near you.

HRM residents can contact Avalon Sexual Assault Centre at avaloncentre.ca.

Women survivors can also access support at their local women's centre. Visit womenconnect.ca for the location nearest you.

SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality has implemented regulations restricting the maximum vehicle and axle weights permitted on all Halifax maintained roads NOT referenced in Schedule “B”.

These restrictions will be in effect from March 6 until May 8, 2017.

For more information about the weight restrictions and exemptions, please call 311 or visit the website below.

Schedule “B”

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2. BEAVER BANK ROAD	WINDGATE DRIVE TO SNYVILLE DR
3. BISSETT ROAD	COLE HARBOUR ROAD TO BISSETT LAKE ROAD
4. CORBOUD ROAD	SNYVILLE DRIVE TO ROCKY LAKE DRIVE
5. COLE HARBOUR ROAD	CALDWELL ROAD TO ROSS ROAD
6. COW BAY ROAD	MAIN ROAD TO CALDWELL ROAD
7. DUKE STREET	ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO HIGHWAY 102
8. MAIN ROAD	BELVAIR AVENUE TO COW BAY ROAD
9. POINTS ROAD	GLYNDALE AVE SOUTHERLY TO END OF PAVEMENT
10. FOREST HILLS DRIVE	MAIN STREET TO COLE HARBOUR ROAD
11. GLENDALE AVENUE	COLE HARBOUR ROAD TO HIGHWAY 102
12. HAYMONDS PLAINS RD.	LARRYUT BOX BOULEVARD TO HIGHWAY 103
13. LAKE MAJOR ROAD	IN TOTAL
14. LAKESIDE ROAD	SNYVILLE DRIVE TO HERRING CREEK
15. ROCKY LAKE DRIVE	DUKE STREET TO HIGHWAY 102
16. SNYVILLE DRIVE	HIGHWAY 102 TO PATTON ROAD IN UPPER SNYVILLE
17. ST. MARGARET'S BAY RD.	PROSPECT ROAD TO HIGHWAY 103, EAST IN TIMBERLEN
18. HIGHWAY 2	ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO SUNNYLEA ROAD IN WELLINGTON
19. MAIN STREET	RODGERS DRIVE TO LITTLE SALMON RIVER BRIDGE
20. HERRING CREEK ROAD	OLD HALIFAX CITY BOULEVARD TO HERRING CREEK
21. EVERGREEN PLACE	IN TOTAL
22. WINDSOR JUNCTION RD.	400 METRES NORTH FROM CORBOUD ROAD
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TAXI VERDICT IN HALIFAX

'He will have to go independent'

TAXI ASSOCIATION

President says cabbie will never drive for any firm again

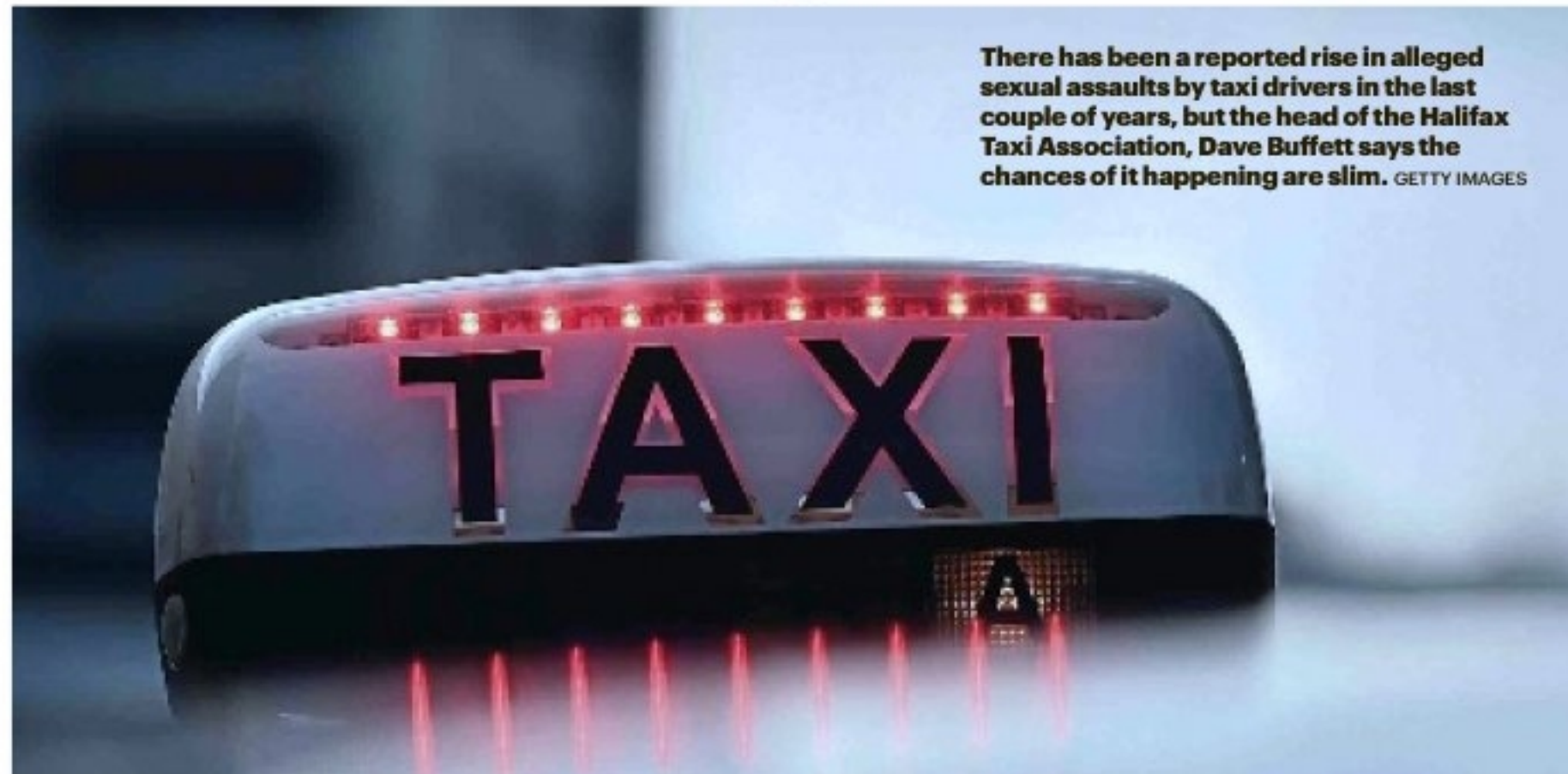


Cody McEachern
For Metro | Halifax

The head of the Halifax Taxi Association says Bassam Al-Rawi "will never drive for a cab company in the HRM again."

Dave Buffett, president of the association, said in an interview Thursday he doubts the taxi driver acquitted Wednesday of sexual assault against a female passenger will ever get his full taxi licence back, but if he does he will have to work independently.

"All the brokers have discussed it, there has been various meetings and none of the taxi brokers in HRM are willing to let him drive for their company," Buffett said. "He will



There has been a reported rise in alleged sexual assaults by taxi drivers in the last couple of years, but the head of the Halifax Taxi Association, Dave Buffett says the chances of it happening are slim. GETTY IMAGES

have no choice but to go independent."

The judge's not guilty ruling Wednesday was a surprise for him, and was a big hit for the taxi industry, said Buffett.

"I'm absolutely appalled. It is justice denied in my view and it's very disturbing for the industry," he said. "We are all parents, siblings and family who drive these cabs, and we

are all upset. It puts us in a bad light."

Although there has been a reported rise in alleged sexual assaults by taxi drivers in the last couple of years, the chances

of it happening are slim, he noted. "The rate of assaults is higher than before, I mean one is high, any more is too high, but this isn't a common thing. Statistically if you look at the



I would put my taxi licence on the line against him ever driving for an HRM taxi company again, absolutely not going to happen.

Dave Buffett

amount of calls for rides we get compared to how many sexual assault allegations are made, there is a one-in-five-million chance of it happening. It is extremely unlikely."

Some cab companies have gone public on Twitter with their stance on Al-Rawi and his driving situation, including Casino Taxi.

"Not with us. No matter what the license & legal status, we believe all drivers must exercise a high duty of care & morality," the tweet read referring to an article about the acquittal.

LICENSING

Man hasn't driven since charged



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Even though a municipal appeals committee reinstated his licence pending the outcome of his trial, a Halifax taxi driver acquitted of sexual assault hasn't driven a cab in the municipality since he was charged in May 2015.

Bassam Al-Rawi was acquitted Wednesday of sexually assaulting an intoxicated and unconscious woman found by police in his cab, the judge citing a lack of evidence around consent in a controversial decision.

When he was charged on May 27, 2015, the municipal taxi licensing office suspended Al-Rawi's licence. In August, he successfully appealed that suspension to the municipality's appeals standing committee,

+ COUNCILLORS

Coun. Matt Whitman, who was chair of the appeals standing committee in August 2015, did not return a request for comment. Along with Whitman, councillors Steve Adams, Russell Walker and David Hendsbee, and now-former councillors Gloria McCluskey and Brad Johns voted unanimously to reinstate Al-Rawi's licence after a 20-minute closed-door meeting.

which voted unanimously to reinstate his licence with the conditions that he not drive between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and that he have a camera in his vehicle.

But to the municipality's knowledge, Al-Rawi hasn't been working behind the wheel since.

"He was unable to provide us with any documentation to say who he was going to drive for in September, so as a result of that, his licence became non-operational," spokesperson Brendan Elliott said in an interview.

That documentation is a requirement for any driver. Independent drivers must register companies with the province and provide that documentation to the municipality. Al-Rawi never did that, and a search of his name in the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks turns up no relevant results.

Now that Al-Rawi's been acquitted, the municipality will determine, based on its bylaw, "whether he's fit and proper" to drive a cab.

REACTION

I don't question judges, Savage says

The mayor of Halifax doesn't think Bassam Al-Rawi should drive a cab in this city, but he stopped short of criticizing the judge who acquitted him.

"Whether he was guilty or innocent from the judge's point of view, and I don't question judges, there's enough evidence for me to say that I don't want

somebody like that driving a taxi in this municipality," Mayor Mike Savage said in an interview.

Savage said that's his point of view "as both a mayor and a father," and he thought the municipality's taxi licensing department made the



Mike Savage
JEFF HARPER/METRO

right call in taking away Al-Rawi's licence when he was charged. But he didn't criticize the committee that reinstated it.

He conceded the committee would benefit from more training.

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

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TAXI VERDICT IN HALIFAX

Ruling is woefully outdated

Consent must be affirmative and ongoing. Consent cannot be compromised.
A judge presiding over a sexual-assault case should know that.



Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

An extremely drunk woman cannot consent to sex. Any public servant who continues to believe she can is making the world unsafe for women.

Judge Gregory Lenehan ruled Wednesday that a taxi driver accused in a Halifax sexual-assault case was not guilty because a lack of consent could not be proved.

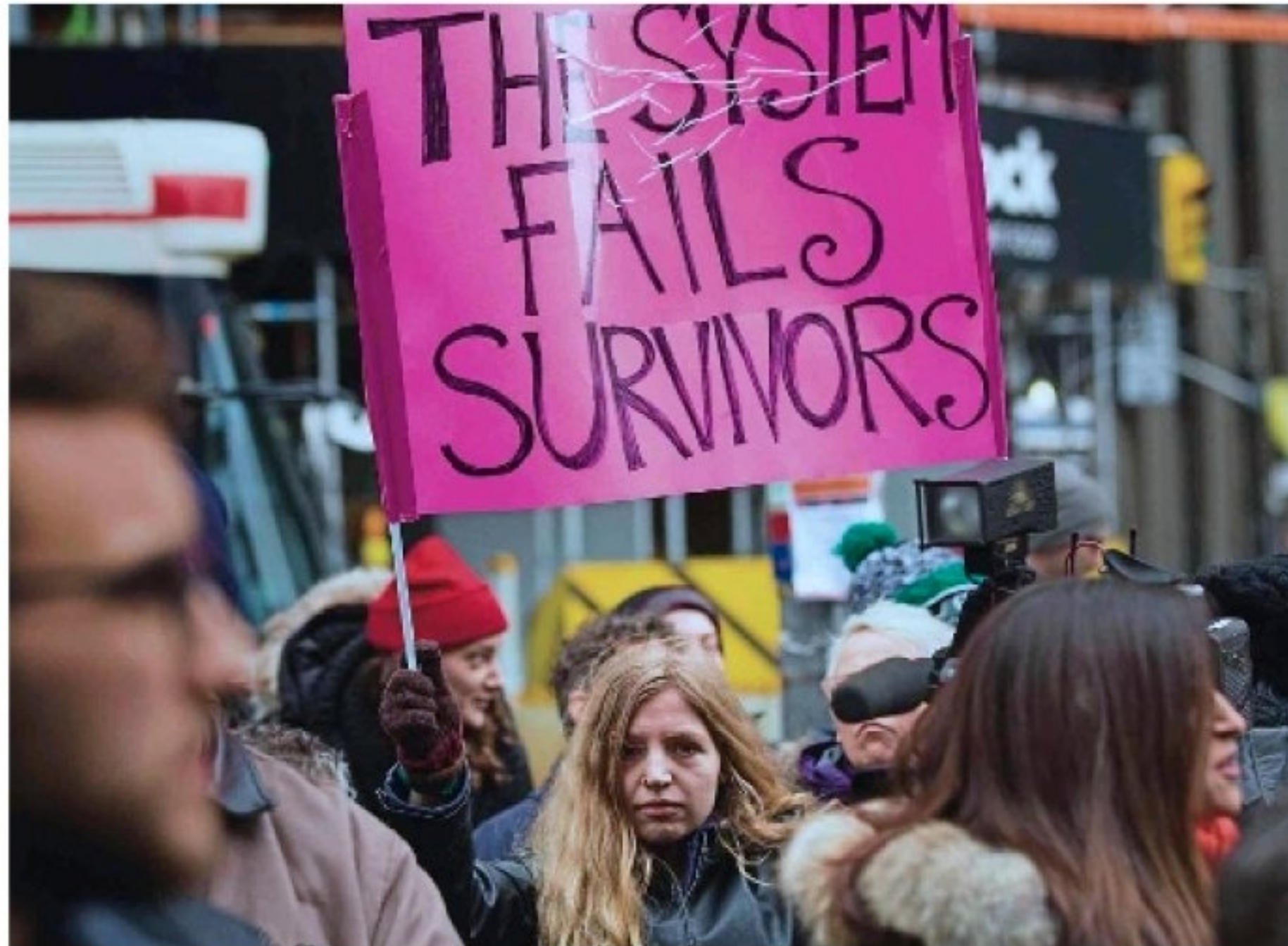
"Clearly," he said, "a drunk can consent."

This is not true. Our understanding of consent has evolved, but Lenehan's is woefully outdated. Consent must be affirmative and ongoing. Consent cannot be compromised. A judge presiding over a sexual-assault case should know that.

The taxi driver, Bassam Al-Rawi, was charged after a woman was found in his car. Having entrusted her safety to the driver, a stranger, the complainant's inebriation only maximizes the horror of the situation.

Now, however, instead of safeguarding her trust and that of other women, some institutions have supported the man charged, and acquitted, in her attack.

The city's licensing committee voted in August 2015, two months after the incident, to reinstate the driver's taxi licence with the conditions that he is not allowed to drive between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and has to have a camera in his car.



Ryerson University's Centre for Women and Trans People staged a rally at Toronto's Old City Hall in response to the Jian Ghomeshi verdict on March 24, 2016 and to show support for the #WeBelieveSurvivors movement. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

That said, it appears he didn't file the paperwork required to start driving again. He does not work for his former employer, Bob's Taxi. However, the licence allows him to act as an independent driver and take fares.

The judge's ruling, too, is a failure to protect women. While the judge acknowledges the moral obligation that the driver had to deliver the complainant home safely, he demonstrates a clear lack of knowledge on consent.

"(The complainant) might very well have been capable of appearing lucid but drunk, and able to direct, ask, agree or consent to any number of different activities," Lenehan said.

The complainant was

found passed out and undressed in the cab while the driver tried to hide her underwear. Toxicology reports shown in court revealed her blood alcohol content to be nearly triple the legal limit.

Again, a vulnerable woman cannot consent.

The councillors who re-licensed the driver must be held to account.

So too must Judge Lenehan, the same judge who issued a light punishment to Rehtaeh Parsons' tormentors.

An outpouring of complaints are now being sent to the provincial and national Judicial Council. Provincial intervention may be unprecedented in Nova Scotia. It has been at least 15 years since a public complaint against a provincially appointed judge has been referred to the Judicial Council, said a spokesperson for the provincial law courts to the Halifax Examiner.

Removing the judge is just one step.

The entire taxi industry must commit to educating their drivers not to commit sexual assault as well as no longer employing drivers who — conviction or not — have sex with passengers. Feeling unsafe and left without justice, women in Halifax are already organizing to drive one another around by using a hashtag.

Rape culture is when women who do the right thing, like taking a cab home when they're drunk, have to ask for justice from the wrong person.

From the roads to city councils to the courts of justice, institutions must do everything possible to prioritize the safety of women or risk completely losing their trust.

BACKLASH

Controversy sparks national conversation on consent



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The reaction following Judge Gregory Lenehan's decision to find a cab driver not guilty of sexual assault, saying there wasn't enough evidence to show lack of consent despite the complainant's intoxication, has sparked a national conversation on consent and the judicial system, alongside local protests and a petition.

Julie Lalonde, a Canadian women's rights advocate and sexual-assault public educator, said the decision was "horrible" to see in a case where there was DNA evidence on driver Bassam Al-Rawi, and the main witness was a police officer who found the cab.

"I don't know how we can ever expect anyone to get a conviction," Lalonde said. "To me that woman needs to know, and the women in (Halifax) need to know, that his views are not shared by

everyone."

Although Lalonde said keeping judges independent is a "bedrock" of democracy, they are being political when handling sexual-assault cases this way and can't be seen as "neutral."

"This is a judgement call," Lalonde said, adding that when looking to reform the justice system, it doesn't involve engineers with tangible restrictions like physics. These are people who are "interpreting a law."



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5 things to do this weekend

Take in some art, rock out, or get a taste of New Orleans



Cody McEachern
For Metro | Halifax

Vaudeville Fashion Show

Dalhousie-King's students will be hitting the catwalk for charity at the fourth annual Vaudeville Fashion Show. The show will feature clothing completely designed by the students, and will feature elements of traditional fashion shows, but with a bit of choreography as well. All proceeds go to Laing House Halifax.

McInnes Room at Dalhousie's Student Union Building, Sunday at 7:30 p.m., \$10.

Art Battle

Art Battle Halifax is continuing strong into its fifth season with Art Battle #499 being held Friday. Featured artists will compete against each other to paint their best work in 20 minutes while patrons walk around and experience their artistic process. Go as a spectator or join in as an artist.

Dalhousie University Club, 7:30 p.m., tickets start at \$10 for students.

Mardi Gras

Halifax is getting some Mardi Gras love with Ms. Julie's second New Orleans-style Mardi Gras celebration. Originally from Louisiana, Julie will be cooking up a variety of southern-style food, straight from her family's recipe book. There will be live jazz, funk and R&B, and a selection of New Orleans-inspired cocktails. Proceeds are going to Big Brothers



Proceeds from the Vaudeville Fashion Show will go to Laing House Halifax. CONTRIBUTED

ers Big Sisters Halifax.

Olympic Hall, 5 p.m., advance tickets start at \$25.

Con-Artists art show

A new exhibit will showcase a collection of works from Maritime artists who frequent conventions around Atlantic Canada. The exhibit, the Maritime Convention Artists Art Show, will explore the varying art styles of some of the Maritimes' best Con-artists, from comic style to

full-blown digital design.

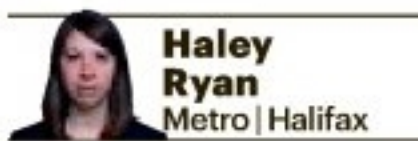
Plan B Halifax, opens 7 p.m. Friday.

Tribute to Link Wray

Fans of Link Wray, the proclaimed "Godfather of the Power Chord," will pay tribute to the late rocker by jamming out at A Tribute to Link Wray. Featuring performances from Davey Lee Goode, Willie Stratton, Brad Conrad and the Urban Surf Kings.

Seahorse Tavern, 8 p.m., \$8.

Maya Angelou doc coming to first Halifax Black Film Fest



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Many think of Maya Angelou as a legendary poet and writer, but a documentary exploring her early life on the stage, and connections to civil-rights figures like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., comes to Halifax this weekend.

The inaugural Halifax Black Film Festival (HBFF) will feature the N.S. premiere of Maya Angelou And Still I Rise at the Spatz Theatre this Saturday evening at 7 p.m., as the third sister festival to the Montreal International Black Film Festival, and the Toronto Black Film Festival.

"This is not just another film

festival. This is the necessary festival in Halifax, this is really important, this is really essential ... because it gives a voice and a platform to people who otherwise wouldn't have been seen or heard," Fabienne Colas, founder and president of the HBFF, said.

"It gives the audience the opportunity to see unique films that will not come out in theatres afterward."

Colas, who also founded the Montreal and Toronto events, said she was excited to bring co-director Rita Coburn Whack to the Halifax screening for a Q&A after the film.

Whack said there's a lot to take away from Angelou's life and passion for fighting prejudice.

+ SEE IT

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Visit halifaxblackfilm.com

"If people become active and ... grow in their own communities and their own households, white, black, whatever, with regard to what prejudice really is and how costly it is not to respect the next human being, no matter who they are ... I think there's a lot of lessons there," Whack said.

In the future, Colas said she hopes the HBFF will grow into supporting local black filmmakers, host master classes, and include more local, national and international films.

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Refugee already giving back

WINNIPEG

Woman who crossed border aims to help

Sitti Ali says she does not miss her first home.

She doesn't elaborate on why to reporters, but the recently-arrived refugee appears to be adjusting well to life in Winnipeg.

The 28-year-old from Djibouti walked to Canada through Emerson, Man. in November, after flying to the U.S. She said she spent two months in Denver before taking a bus to Minnesota.

Ali said she heard people were finding their way to Manitoba through Minnesota and she yearned to make the trip.

So she took a bus to Grand Forks and from there, a taxi to the border where she met another group of six from Djibouti who were hoping to make the same trek to Emerson.

Ali walked with three women, two men and an eight-month-old baby starting



Sitti Ali is a recent refugee claimant from Djibouti who walked to Manitoba from the United States. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

at 7 p.m. one night, she said.

When they arrived in Canada seven hours later, "I was the only one there who spoke

English so I called 911 (and) said, 'We are refugees,'" she remembered.

She described the police

and border services agents as welcoming and friendly.

Ali shared her story at a morning press conference



I really like to help people in any kind of way.

Setti Ali

where the United Way announced support for asylum seekers in the form of a new website: helprefugees.ca.

After about three months in Winnipeg, Ali said she is also looking to give back.

She's volunteering at Welcome Place helping other refugee claimants file their paperwork and is opening her own home to newcomers.

"I started welcoming people to my house — families, people that Welcome Place doesn't have enough accommodations (for)," Ali said.

Right now, she has 11 people staying in her home temporarily. The most she's hosted is 18.

"Everyone is here (because) they want education, they want peace, they want (a place) where they can have their family and kids to grow," she said.

MEMORIAL

Monument has five final submissions



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa could be home to the leaning tower of Vladimir Lenin.

The falling figure of the Russian communist revolutionary is the central feature of one of five finalists to become the monument to the victims of communism, whose site was moved in 2015 from land near the Supreme Court to the Garden of the Provinces and Territories, on Wellington near Bay Street.

Jeff Cutler, with the team Space2Place, which is proposing the Lenin-centric design, said having the statue's toppling effect ties into history.

"What it really represents is that moment of transition from the fall of a communist regime into something new," he said.

He said his group chose Lenin because of his central role in the movement.

"All of the modern-day communism can really trace their roots back to him."

Four other designs are also competing to be selected for the project.

MARIJUANA

Legalizing pot will keep cash from gangs, protect kids: PM



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went running with members of the Canadian Forces Thursday. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says regulating the sale of marijuana will protect young people and take money away from criminal gangs, but the government is drawing the line at pot when it comes to legalizing illicit drugs.

The federal government's approach on pot has two goals, Trudeau said Tuesday during a visit to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt in the Victoria area.

"The first is to protect our kids. Right now we know that young people have easier access to marijuana than just about any other

illicit substance. It's easier to buy a joint for a teenager than it is to buy a bottle of beer. That's not right," he said.

"Secondly, we know that criminal organizations and street gangs are making billions of dollars off of the sale of marijuana. We feel that regulating it, controlling it will bring that revenue out of the pockets of criminals and put it into a system where we can both monitor, tax it and ensure that we are supporting people who are facing challenges." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GAIL WILES





Democrats are demanding an investigation into whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions committed perjury. GETTY IMAGES

Perjury difficult charge to prove

POLITICS

Sessions would have a good defence if he needed one

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions rejected any suggestion that he tried to mislead anyone about his contacts with the Russians.

Here are some questions and answers about the allegations:

Is this a case of perjury?

That's tough to say. Such a case would likely come down to splitting hairs over what Sessions said under oath, what he believed he was saying, and what he believed he was being asked. During Sessions' confirmation hearing in January, Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., asked the then-Alabama senator what he would do if evidence emerged that anyone from the Trump campaign had been in touch with the Russian government during the

2016 race. Sessions replied he was "not aware of any of those activities" and that he himself, "did not have communications with the Russians."

Could he be charged with making 'false statements'?

Sen. Patrick Leahy, the senior Judiciary Committee Democrat, asked Sessions in a written questionnaire whether "he had been in contact with anyone connected to any part of the Russian government about the 2016 election, either before or after Election Day."

Sessions replied with one word: "No."

That statement could be examined under a separate "false statements" statute, which differs from perjury in that it applies to statements that are not made under oath.

What has Sessions himself said about perjury?

The House impeached Bill Clinton after he had been accused of lying to a grand jury about his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

As a senator Sessions voted for conviction on perjury and obstruction. Clinton was acquitted.

"I fear that an acquittal of this president will weaken the legal system by providing an option for those who consider being less than truthful in court," Sessions said after Clinton's acquittal in 1998.

What are some other cases?

Republicans asked for a perjury investigation of Hillary Clinton for telling Congress there was nothing in her private email marked classified. That was not accurate, but FBI Director James Comey said it was "possible that she didn't understand what a 'C' meant when she saw it in the body of the email like that," which would hurt a perjury case.

The Justice Department in 2013 rejected Republican suggestions that Attorney General Eric Holder committed perjury when he told Congress he had never been involved in a potential prosecution of the news media.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEBSITES

Comments get a skill test filter



Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

Canadians are quite familiar with skill-testing contest questions. Perhaps skill-testing comment questions will be next.

In a bid to keep a lid on the generally ill-informed fury that comments sections quickly be-

come, a Norwegian website will ask those hoping to weigh in one simple question: Did you actually read the article?

Last month, NRKbeta — a tech site operated by Norway's public broadcaster — introduced a new feature that quizzes readers on details of the article before they're allowed to toss in their two cents.

"We thought we should do our part to try and make sure that people are on the same page before they comment," NRKbeta reporter Stale Grut told Nieman Lab.

Many news websites, including Metro, have jettisoned comment sections after they were largely taken over by hostile and reactionary ranting.



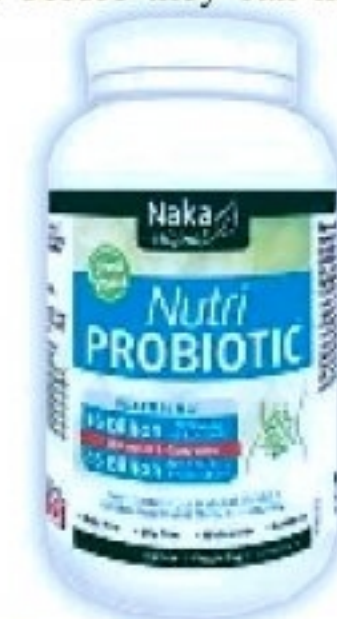
Feeling a Little Bit Under-the-Weather? You Should try Probiotics

Gastrointestinal and digestive problems are a very common health complaint. Bloating, acid reflux, indigestion, constipation, and diarrhea are not a normal part of your digestive process. Poor digestion symptoms like these may indicate an imbalance in your intestinal microflora that can lead to far more serious health problems.

Do you suffer from... bloating, frequent belching, flatulence, diarrhea or constipation, nausea after eating, cracked fingernails, acne, iron deficiency, parasites, candida, food allergies, eczema, or psoriasis? Each one of these conditions can be attributed to poor digestion or an upset in the balance of the intestinal flora in your digestive tract.

Your digestive system consists of both good, healthful bacteria and harmful bacteria. When the harmful bacteria dominates the intestinal tract, your digestion suffers, candida yeast grows out of control, and essential vitamins and enzymes are not produced. Without these, your immune system becomes compromised... and that can lead to an increased risk of disease.

A simple but very effective remedy is to take probiotics regularly. Probiotics boost your immune system and help protect you from a myriad of maladies, including... viruses, fungus, bacteria, and allergens, by neutralizing the harmful substances. The good bacteria in probiotics form a barrier along your intestinal lining, preventing viruses from passing into your bloodstream. These beneficial bacteria also help your body to neutralize bacteria and viruses before they can make you sick.



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Smog fees Lawyers suing Beijing over the city's smog are demanding compensation for the likes of masks and doctor's visits.

DECODED by Andrés Plana and Sarah-Joyce Battersby

WHAT TO EXPECT IN TECH

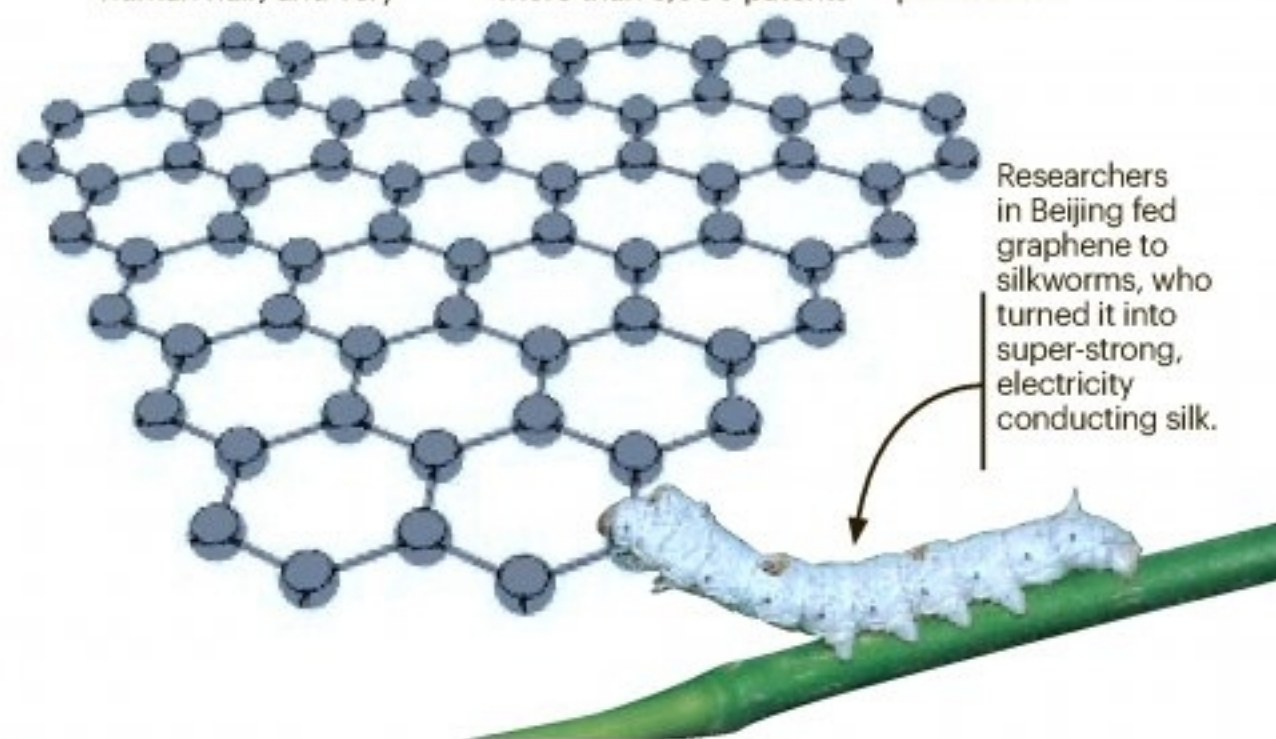
It's been almost 6,000 years since the wheel was invented, but science has not been resting on its innovation laurels. A mere 300 years later, wheels were first used for transportation. And now in the 21st century it looks like invention is starting to hit its stride, with new discoveries and applications cropping up regularly. **Here's a look at tech from the not-too-distant future**

Graphene

Touted as the first 2D material, graphene is very thin (one million times thinner than human hair) and very

strong (200 times stronger than steel). Since researchers at the University of Manchester published their discovery of the material in 2004, more than 8,000 patents

have been registered, with Samsung holding the most. The substance can be used in batteries, bendable computer screens, and water purification.



Researchers in Beijing fed graphene to silkworms, who turned it into super-strong, electricity conducting silk.



Nuclear waste diamond batteries

As 2016 came to a close, British researchers announced they could turn nuclear waste into diamonds that could in turn be used as long-lasting batteries. The power-emitting gems don't have enough juice to charge a smartphone, but they can last for thousands of years. So it's a trade off.

Pollinating Drones

Hoping to ease the burden on dwindling bee populations, Japanese scientists announced last month they had created insect-sized drones to pollinate plants. Enthusiasm for robot bees depends on how many episodes of dystopian TV series Black Mirror you've seen.



FINDINGS

Your week in science



Sweet pee Alberta researchers have a theory: test for urine in pools by looking at sugar levels, since artificial sweeteners stay intact in pee. Using the method, they found 75 litres of urine in a pool one-third of Olympic size. That equals about 37 big bottles of Coke.

Quebec cradle of life A team of researchers believe they have uncovered the oldest known signs of life on the planet in a spot on the shores of Hudson Bay in northern Quebec. The fossils contain traces of bacteria from 3.77 billion years ago.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION

Meatspace the physical world, as opposed to cyberspace or a virtual environment.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

Deborah has been using her phone so much to deal with social life that I think she forgot about the **meatspace**.

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

Imagination is the only key to the future. Without it, none exists. With it, all things are possible.



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Hover-bike

For all your Star Wars-style transportation needs, a U.K. company is working to develop a manned helicopter bike. The project is still in the prototyping and fundraising phase, but it did attract interest from the U.S. Department of Defense in 2015.



Cooling Plastic

In an attempt to beat the heat, engineers have developed a cheap plastic film that blocks heat from the sun while also cooling anything it touches by up to 10 C. The details were

published in the journal Science by researchers in Wyoming and Colorado, who say the method could be mass-produced and used to cool buildings.



Hyperloop

It doesn't exist yet, but if it did it could travel between Toronto and Montreal in 30 minutes. Students gathered for a SpaceX-sponsored contest in January to help make the dream a reality.



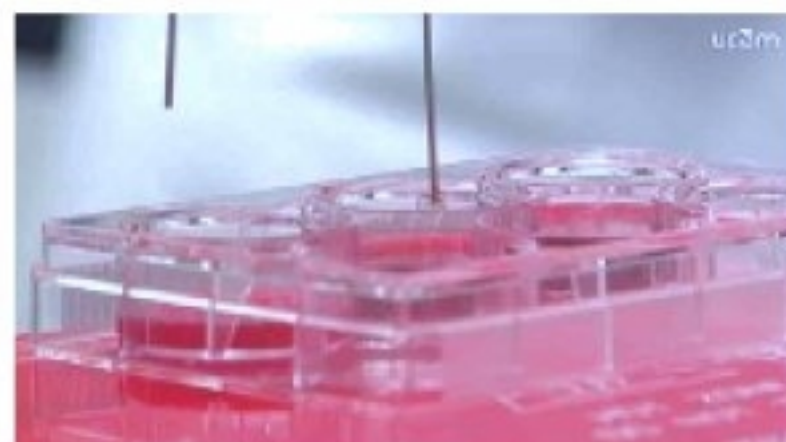
Translating headphones

These translation earbuds are set to start shipping in May. For now they only translate the romance languages and require all speakers to wear them, but in the future they could listen and translate all sounds around you.



Human skin printer

Scientists have developed a prototype for a machine that prints out sheets of human skin that could be used for transplants or cosmetic and pharmaceutical testing.



A sweeter side of Wolverine

IN FOCUS

Hugh Jackman brings sharp humanity in mutant finale

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Temperament wise, Hugh Jackman doesn't have much in common with his most famous screen role.

As the embodiment of Wolverine — a mutant blessed with miraculous healing powers but cursed with a bad hairstyle and existential angst — Jackman is the face of the character. But off screen he is as gracious as his cigar-smoking X-Men alter ego is testy.

His Prisoners co-star Terence Howard told me Jackman was, "a sweet man," while director Josh Rothstein said the actor "leads with smiles and warmth."

Doesn't sound much like Wolverine to me.

When he isn't playing Wolverine he devotes his time to charitable causes like World Vision and Laughing Man, a coffee company he established that sells fair trade coffee and tea, products farmed using ecologically friendly methods and sold for the benefit of the farmer and consumer.

This weekend he stars in Logan, the third solo Wolverine film. In the new movie the X-Men antihero makes tracks to the Mexican border to set up

a hide-out for ailing mentor Professor X, played by Patrick Stewart.

This installment marks the ninth time Jackman has slipped on the adamantium claws, and will be his swansong in the role.

Having played the character for almost 18 years Jackman owns the part, bringing real humanity to the mutant in an powerful and accomplished performance.

But, as he told me in a friendly, wide-ranging and informative interview, he wasn't always as self-assured.

"When I started acting I was the dunce of the class," he reveals. Success in school, he says, came because of his work ethic, a trait he picked up from his father.

"He never took one day off in his life," he remembers. "He had five kids he was bringing up on his own. If anyone deserved a day off it was my old man, but he never did. I learned that from him."

"There's always that feeling of, 'I have to work harder than everybody else. I'm not born Phillip Seymour Hoffman. I've got to just work harder and I'm prepared to do it.'"

Being the youngest of five children also contributed to his outlook.

"I always wanted to do stuff and not be left out," he says, but adds, "I was quite a fearful kid, which I hated."

"I've always had a fear of fear. It's weird to think back now but drama school is a pressure cooker situation. People get kicked out of drama school. You are constantly being judged



Dafne Keen as Laura and Patrick Stewart's Professor X are Hugh Jackman's sidekicks in Wolverine swansong Logan. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Before I Fall	★★★	HOW RATING WORKS ★★★★★ SEE IT ★★★ WORTHWHILE ★★ UP TO YOU ★ SKIP IT
Ballerina	★	
Table 19	★★★	
The Shack	★	
Bitter Harvest	★★	

on how you are doing; are you progressing, are you not?

"Almost everyday you had to get up and do a monologue.

Sing a song. Do it in front of everybody. I noticed I was always first. I never wanted to sit there waiting. I'm not saying that out of courage. It was too uncomfortable to sit, stewing. I don't think I've told anyone else that."

Later, fear of unemployment pushed him to expand his talents.

"When I came out of drama

school I was like, 'I'm going to do anything I can just to keep working.' In drama school you do Shakespeare to movement to circus skills to singing all in one morning. I know a lot of people hated it but I revelled in it. I loved it."

Seems hard work and confidence is the X-factor that made Jackman the most famous — and friendly — of all the X-Men.



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Avoiding falls, Deutch is on the rise

INTERVIEW

Actress waves goodbye to her Disney days and grows up fast

To say actress Zoey Deutch is a regular at Art's Deli is an understatement. Sporting an oversized sweatshirt, she breezes into the restaurant, a Studio City institution since 1957, and is immediately greeted with familiar hugs from the wait staff. One chimes in that he's known her since she was a baby.

"I do all my interviews here, I do all my meetings here, I do all my dates here," Deutch laughs. "There's a lot of ground covered at this deli."

Deutch grew up not too far away from the spot with her movie business parents. Her dad is *Pretty in Pink* director Howie Deutch and her mom, actress and '80s dream girl Lea Thompson. They fell for each other on the set of the high school rom-com *Some Kind of Wonderful* and have stayed together since.

At 22, Deutch, is looking to make a name for herself in the business separate from her insider parents. She's been acting professionally since age 15, transitioning from Disney shows to young adult genre fare, some of which are better regarded (*Beautiful Creatures*) than others (*Vampire Academy*), and now more adult roles. Earlier this year, she was paired opposite James Franco, 16 years her senior, in the studio comedy *Why Him*, and last



Zoey Deutch plays a popular teenager forced to live the last day of her life over and over in *Before I Fall*. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

year played the wise female lead in the otherwise testosterone fueled Richard Linklater indie *Everybody Wants Some!!*

Her latest, *Before I Fall*, is a dark *Groundhog Day*-like portrait of a popular teenager forced to relive the last day of her life over and over again. The film explores subjects like bullying, peer pressure and how to be a decent person in the world within conventions of a psychological thriller.

"She's the real thing," said *Before I Fall* director Ry Russo-Young. "The girl has serious

chops."

Deutch is someone who admittedly likes to take control of things, even outside of the duties of "actor."

Before I Fall, for instance, was a \$3 million movie that didn't have much of a wardrobe budget, so she found herself calling in favours to make sure they had all the necessary duplicates to work for the time loop construct.

Recently, too, she put on a public relations hat to tell the folks at a morning talk show where she was a guest that

there'd be no running a clip from her new film of a car crash first thing in the morning, "right before people get in the car!"

She even ordered a cup of matzah ball soup for this reporter at Art's.

"It's the best!" she says as she transitions between myriad topics from what books she's excited about lately (she just finished *The Feminist Porn Book* and is about to start *Rupi Kaur's Milk and Honey*) to the magic of Christian Marclay's experimental video art

installation *The Clock*. In her next film, *Rebel in the Rye*, she plays the popular socialite Oona O'Neill, who dated J.D. Salinger and eventually married Charlie Chaplin and got to affect a mid-Atlantic accent à la Katharine Hepburn (Deutch's "queen idol of the universe").

Deutch is interested in everything and everyone. She skipped out on college to focus on acting, but packs her free time with extracurricular pursuits. She reads voraciously, studies with a political science tutor (the current focus is on

constitutional law) and even takes art classes at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

She has taken a vested interest in politics and feminist causes, like reproductive rights, excitedly lifting up her sweatshirt to reveal a T-shirt underneath with an image of female anatomy and a gun with the words that the former is "more controlled" than the latter. Deutch found the shirt at a local bookstore and bought some for all of her friends.

"They're like, 'what's that?'" Deutch said. "I'm like, 'that's your uterus.'"

Speaking out on causes is something she feels a responsibility to do.

"There are privileges in my life, inherently, because of my job and that I'm white. I have these things that are completely out of my control and if I don't use these things to raise awareness for people who don't, then that's lame," she said.

But of course the primary focus is acting, and she's in it for the long haul. Deutch resents the moniker "it girl" for the temporality it implies.

"It's OK, call me whatever you want, but I'm here forever whether you like it or not. I love what I do and in whatever capacity I can. I have no facade. No delusions of grandeur of how one's path goes. I know this is an up and down crazy journey and I'm prepared and willing to go on," she said.

"I want to do a Western! I want to do a musical I want to do a remake of *'Venus in Fur'*. I want to do everything. And I will."

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Gossip DIGEST

FILM
Houston, Gottfried
docs debut at New York festival

Documentaries about Whitney Houston, Gilbert Gottfried, Elian Gonzalez and Frank Serpico will premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The New York festival announced 82 of the 98 features that will play in this year's slightly slimmed-down lineup.

Among the entries are Gilbert, Neil Berkeley's documentary about the comedian; Elian, the Alex Gibney-produced documentary about the famous Cuban boy; and the Houston documentary,

Whitney: Can I Be Me.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TELEVISION
Chappelle returns with Netflix specials

Comedian Dave Chappelle is headed back to TV with his first concert specials in a dozen years — two of them. Both premiere March 21, exclusively on Netflix.

The hour-long specials are from his personal vault. *Dave Chappelle: The Age of Spin* was filmed at The Palladium in Los Angeles in March 2016. *Dave Chappelle: Deep in the Heart of Texas* was filmed at the Moody Theater in Austin in April 2015. He's currently on the road

in preparation for a third Netflix special.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



RELATIONSHIPS
Bloom, Perry break for some 'respectful, loving space'

Pop star Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom have announced that they are breaking up after about a year together.

Representatives for Perry and Bloom released a statement saying the couple "are taking respectful, loving space at this time."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bitter Harvest opens Irons' eyes to hidden part of history

PERIOD DRAMA

Drama delves into dark days of Ukrainian genocide

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Genocide may be largely associated with the terrible atrocities that took place in Armenia, Rwanda and during the Holocaust of the Second World War. But there is another historical horror that actor Max Irons is hoping to enlighten moviegoers about.

"It was new to me and it's new to most people from what I can tell," said the young star about Holodomor, the man-made Ukrainian famine at the centre of his latest film, *Bitter Harvest*.

"There was a concerted effort made by (Joseph) Stalin and the Soviet Union to keep what happened in Ukraine under wraps and as a result few people knew about it up until about '91. Even today, only about 24 countries acknowledge it for what it was — which is a state-sponsored genocide."

While the film (set in the 1930s) is an excavation of the neglected disaster that killed millions of people, the period drama about two separated lovers battling to reunite during the crisis also takes on a decidedly contemporary flavour in light of today's

tension over Russian President Vladimir Putin's annexation of the Crimea region.

"I think the DNA of the country led to what happened in the '30s and again is leading to what's happened with Crimea and Ukraine today," said Irons. "It's a country that's divided politically, ethnically, linguistically, economically and also it's struggling for its sense of national identity (and) even now Putin refuses to acknowledge the Ukraine as its own sovereign state. So it's a country in the wrong place."

While candid on the complex issue, Irons is also quick to distance any direct connection between *Bitter Harvest* and the region's current politics. After all, he insists he's just an actor and "if it's a great story, it's a great story," regardless of the politics involved.

It would seem such insight might have been imparted from his parents — two people who know a thing or two about filmmaking. But the son of Oscar-winner Jeremy Irons and legendary Irish stage actress Sinéad Cusack insists that he's not necessarily relied on their fame for career success — or even their advice.

"They understand that everyone has to make their own way and make their own mistakes and have their own victories," said Irons. "They're quite nice like that — they just let me get on with it."



Max Irons stars in *Bitter Harvest*, a film about two separated lovers set during the 1930s famine in Ukraine, which led to the deaths of millions of people. CONTRIBUTED

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Fiction vs. non-fiction

"Films can be so many things from straight-up entertainment to slightly solemn and worthy things that teach people a thing or two," said Max Irons. "But I was attracted to this story because so few people know about it."

The Canadian connection

Bitter Harvest was produced by Toronto-based financier Ian Ihnatowycz, whose own family fled Ukraine in the 1940s.

"(He) feels, like many Ukrainians do, that this story needs to be told," said Irons.

"He's fortunate enough to have enough access to the kind of capital required to make a film like this and tell the story and he's gone ahead and done it, which is pretty great."

An actor by choice

"I never believed that thing about it (being) in your genes," said Irons about his famous filmmaking family. "It was only when I did it for the first time (and) it was just more engaging and more fun and exercising the parts of my brain that I wanted to exercise."

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Following Gigi's journey to Gorgeous



Canadian YouTube star Gigi Gorgeous, right, with her partner, Nats Getty. [INSTAGRAM/@NATSGETTY](#)

DOCUMENTARY

Why nothing is off limits in Youtube star's transition tale

Canadian transgender YouTube star Gigi Lazzarato has been extremely candid in sharing the story of her male-to-female transition with her millions of subscribers.

So it's not surprising that the new documentary *Gigi Gorgeous: This is Everything*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, leaves little unsaid or hidden as its 24-year-old star chronicles her "journey" from childhood, to coming out as gay, and her gender transition.

"That's why we entitled the film *This is Everything*, because ... nothing is off limits," Lazzarato said the day after the premiere.

Born the middle of three boys, Gregory Lazzarato is introduced as an outgoing, frantically active kid from Mississauga, Ont., who was a championship diver as a teen. But

he struggled with being bullied in high school, especially after starring in makeup-application tutorials on YouTube.

Told in chronological order, the first half of the film relies on video made by Lazzarato as a diary of experiences for friends and family. She also acts as narrator.

"When I was done with my transition I thought this would be a great movie," said Lazzarato, who knew she wanted a woman to "tell my story" and chose two-time Oscar-winning director Barbara Kopple, who made *Harlan County, USA*; *Miss Sharon Jones!* and *Dixie Chicks: Shut Up & Sing*.

"I got into a world where I never thought of Gigi as transgender. I just thought of her as Gigi and never wanted to say 'he' or ask her too many questions because I just felt she's who she is," said Kopple, who added "we should all be so lucky to have parents and brothers like Gigi does."

Indeed, the most touching moments in the film come courtesy of Lazzarato's family. Her brothers, and father David, are studies in how to be supportive, while Lazzarato talks

about how devastated she was following the death of her mother, Judy, from cancer five years ago.

In one scene, David Lazzarato tenderly gives his woozy child a sponge bath as she recovers from breast-implant surgery.

Although he occasionally struggles with pronouns and seems taken aback when Lazzarato announces she has booked \$14,000 worth of facial feminization surgery, he later says that "having Gigi happy is way more important than me having the old Greg."



I think I've always gotten my message across the strongest by telling my story and visually telling my story will ignite even more of a reaction.

Gigi Lazzarato

"I think my dad is definitely the star in my life," said Lazzarato, who attended the Sundance premiere dressed in a floor-length, crystal-embellished gown accompanied by friends, family and her partner, model and designer Nats Getty of the American oil family.

On her YouTube channel, Lazzarato speaks candidly to her more than 2.5 million subscribers in videos that are continually wrapped in a strong anti-bullying, be-yourself message.

"I'm really excited. I think I've always gotten my message across the strongest by telling my story and visually telling my story will ignite even more of a reaction from people," said Lazzarato of the film.

She wishes Caitlyn Jenner was around when she was transitioning and takes her role as an inspiration for a new generation seriously.

"I know I turned a lot of people's mindsets around just from my personality, people who might not have known transgender people, not been as supporting of transgender people or gay people," she said.

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Lessons from a family gap year

ADVENTURE

Parents stick to epic plan, even when the kids are fussy

Yvette Duffy's adventure of a lifetime began with years of meticulous planning.

The goal was to visit 16 countries in 10 months — an around-the-world ramble in which she and her husband would introduce their 10- and 13-year-old kids to an array of cultures, traditions and invaluable life lessons.

A family gap year, or even a months-long jaunt, can seem like an impossible dream for average Canadians. But many figure out a way, despite significant hurdles: finances, schooling, work obligations and of course, the kids' willingness to go along.

Before their trip, Duffy and her husband curtailed spending and drafted a list of countries to visit. Duffy deferred 20 per cent of her teacher's salary for four years so they could afford a year-long leave. They crunched the numbers again and again and tweaked their list of dream destinations.

As the trip approached, they sold their car and arranged a home swap for one of the costliest legs of the trip — three weeks in the south of France.

School was also an issue, since their son would essentially skip Grade 5 while their daughter would ditch Grade 8. So Duffy downloaded outlines of their academic requirements and vowed to homeschool on the road.



Riding camels in northern Morocco, from left: husband Scott Morson, kids Matthew and Alexandra, and Yvette Duffy. Right: Lisa Kisch and husband Quillan Nagel with daughters Audrey, centre, and Lily, right, at the San Buenaventura Church in Homun, Mexico. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY YVETTE DUFFY/LISA KISCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was a risky plan, Duffy acknowledges, but the payoff was huge. Several months after returning to Toronto, she points to incredible memories, a tighter family bond, and confident kids.

"Their self-esteem definitely increased, their sense of independence increased, their knowledge of the world definitely grew," Duffy says of the impact of visiting locales including Iceland, northern Africa, the Himalayas, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

"They can now speak about places and issues in the world with more confidence and ac-

tually recognize the challenges that are facing the world around poverty, human rights, climate change."

Toronto mom Lisa Kisch says she indulged a long-held dream to see the world after her mother suddenly fell ill with terminal cancer.

Eager to distract herself from grief, Kisch dove into a plan to take her husband and two daughters on a seven-month jaunt to Mexico, the Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.

Reached at their first stop in Merida, Mexico earlier this year,

Kisch rattled off a list of tips and tricks that could actually keep her finances in the black, thanks to a healthy passive income.

She's renting out their Toronto home and also found tenants for their cottage. Her online business as a network marketer for a beauty products company also promises a continued source of income.

Living and accommodation expenses should drop — depending on where they travel — and more savings come from reduced home and car insurance. Plus they won't be on the hook for the regular stream of birth-



day party gifts for her daughters' friends, she jokes.

Kisch used a broker to score seven months of health insurance for the whole family for \$1,000 and will curb travel costs by hitting Europe in May before high-season starts. More affordable destinations like Portugal will alternate with pricier stops, like London.

While the budget fell into place, she hadn't anticipated how hard the move would be on her eight- and 10-year-old girls, who were sad to leave friends. Several days into the trip they were still crying and she admits to being plagued by mom-guilt.

"It did surprise me that after five or six days they were still wishing they were home," says Kisch. "And then I realized: You know what? You had a vision for this trip from the beginning for a reason and just keep that vision even while your kids are going through those ups and downs because ultimately that's what they're really going to learn from." THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOW TO DO IT

Living abroad temporarily can seem out of reach. Here's a look at how one Canadian family managed:

Family: Lisa Kisch, her husband and two kids

Home: Toronto

Travel dates: Jan. 3, 2017 to July 2017

Where they went: Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.

How they handled school:

The board doesn't provide material for home schooling so Kisch loaded e-readers and bought workbooks.

Income: Rental income from their home and cottage covers both mortgages and provides about \$2,500 a month extra. Lisa continues to work online as a network marketing professional and receives a salary.

The cost: Mexico provided affordable comfort — housing, Uber rides, groceries and restaurants were cheap. Costs rose in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but over the course of the trip, Kisch expects they'll spend about as much as they would living in Toronto.

Travel tip: Quell tantrums by picky eaters with help from food ordering apps that do the translating for you. "The day I got here I tried to order pizza ... and it was an epic fail," Kisch recalls of her Spanish-speaking skills. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Whitehorse: A great winter escape

While you may be tempted to seek out a warmer climate in wintertime, Yukon's capital offers all you need to fall in love with the frost. **LIZ BEDDALL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



The hot spot

You might not think to pack your bikini for a mid-winter trip to the North, but if you're coming to Whitehorse it's a must. Surrounded by 121 hectares of Yukon wilderness, the Takhini Hot Pools are a cosy 47 C. With high calcium, magnesium and iron content, these springs don't stink the way sulfurous ones do. Takhini Hot Pools is even available for parties and night rentals, so friends can soak up the northern lights while the tips of their hair freeze into icicles. Details: takhinihotpools.com

Go on a high-speed chase

The Yukon wilderness is wild and untamed like your traveler's spirit. Kanoë People offers a chance to see the land, and lots of it, in a hurry via thrilling snowmobile rides. Travel takes place along spectacular Lake Laberge, a 50-kilometre stretch of the Yukon River. Cover frosted trails and spectacular expanses of wilderness warmly with help from Whitehorse's cold-weather-gear rental service, Arctic Range Adventure. Details: kanoepople.com and arcticrange.com

Stay up all night

Chasing the northern lights can be an endeavour fraught with uncertainty, but taking that chance with Northern Tales Travel Services will result in a memorable night regardless. The tour takes you to a light-free lookout and cabins stocked with refreshments and a roaring fire outside. Guides armed with tripods will help you get the shot. It's a long stretch (the tour makes its way back downtown at 2 a.m.) but well worth the wait when the sky begins to dance. Details: northerntales.ca

Crack the whip

No trip to the Yukon would be complete without your own sled quest led by a pack of canines. Muktuk Adventures, run by Yukon Quest veteran Frank Turner, offers mushing excursions with the help of 125 friendly and eager Alaskan huskies who are rip-raring to take you down the frozen Takhini River. Hot beverages and snacks are on offer post-ride at Muktuk's sprawling Whitehorse property, where you'll find a B&B graced by a community of retired sled dogs. Details: muktuk.com

Take a history lesson

What appears to be a humble lodge on a quiet street is in fact a meticulously maintained and gorgeously presented showcase of the area's history. The MacBride Museum of Yukon History boasts rich exhibits and interactive displays under such themes as the natural history of the Yukon, First Nations history and the Gold Rush. Highlights include a gold-encrusted map of the rush's hot spots and the authentic cabin of Sam McGee. Details: macbridemuseum.com

Drink up

The slogan of this Whitehorse brewery is "beer worth freezin' for" and considering the founders conceived of their company over a campfire, you've got to figure they aren't lying. Yukon Brewing's beer is served city-wide, but join a brewery tour to see how it's brewed and prepared, all while enjoying copious sips of each Yukon-themed flavour. Details: yukonbeer.com

Liz Beddall was hosted by Tourism Yukon, which did not review or approve this story.



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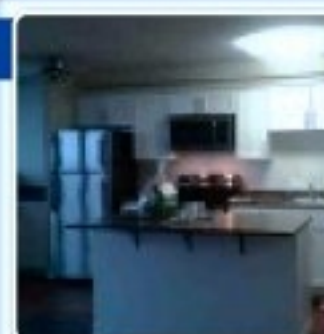
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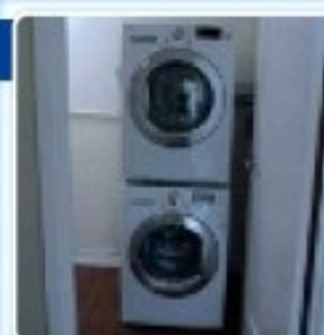
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"I've waited so long for this opportunity": Dalton Pompey, who is set to make his first World Baseball Classic appearance for Canada next week

Halifax teams hope for silverware season capper

AUS BASKETBALL

Dal men set to defend title at Scotiabank Centre



Jonathan Briggs
For Metro | Halifax

The Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team has a berth in the national championship no matter what happens this weekend, but they'll worry about that later.

As hosts of the U Sports national men's basketball championships, the Tigers have a guaranteed trip to the Final 8 later in March. First, the focus is on the Atlantic University Sport championship at the Scotiabank Centre where the team has a chance to win its third banner in a row.

"We're trying not to look past the AUS at all," says Tigers fifth-year guard Jarred Reid.

"If we're playing well in our own conference, then hopefully that would carry over to nationals. We've got to take care of business first, in our



the Dalhousie Tigers celebrate last-season's win over the UPEI Panthers in the AUS men's basketball final at the Scotiabank Centre. JEFF HARPER/METRO

own division."

Dalhousie finished first in the standings, securing a first-round bye through Friday that sets up a semi-final on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. against the

winner of the Acadia Axemen and the Memorial Sea-Hawks quarter-final. The Tigers went undefeated against both teams in the regular season, helping propel the team to a 16-4, 44-point season.

Tigers coach Rick Plato attributes the team's regular-season success to two factors. First, the team's leadership from seniors Ritchie Kanza Mata, Kashrell

Lawrence, Ryall Stroud and Reid. Secondly, the team's defence that allowed the fewest points in the AUS by a 198-point margin.

"We have tremendous team chemistry, they work hard and we've got great leadership," said Plato who has coached the team for four years.

"They're tested champions. It's not going to be easy, but

I know these guys are committed."

SMU men have their work cut out.

The Saint Mary's Huskies will have to beat a team they struggled with in the regular season to survive the win-or-go-home format of the AUS championship.

In Friday night's 8:30 p.m. quarter-final, the third-place Huskies face the sixth-place St. Francis Xavier X-Men. In a pair of regular season games, the X-Men came out on top, including a close 85-83 SFX win on Feb. 3.

"We'll need to knock down some shots in the offensive end and we need to get back and contain their bigs, Kevin Bercy and Cameron Walker," said Huskies head coach Jonah Taussig.

"They've been successful against us and we need to slow them down."

Senior guards Marquis Clayton, Theon Reefer and Brian Rouse provide leadership, experience and production for a team that last won the AUS in 2013-14.

"All three guys have the ability to take over a game or be the guy on the offensive end. We'll need consistency from those three guys and then everyone else can follow suit," said Taussig.

The winner faces the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds on Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

We have tremendous team chemistry, they work hard and we've got great leadership.
Dalhousie coach Rick Plato

BRIER

Gushue ready for his shot at hometown Brier glory



Brad Gushue THE CANADIAN PRESS

Everything appears to be lining up nicely for Newfoundland and Labrador skip Brad Gushue in his quest to finally raise the Tim Hortons Brier tankard.

His St. John's foursome is the top-ranked team in the country. Gushue is coming off a Canadian Open title and smooth run through the provincial playdowns. Boisterous crowds are expected to pack Mile One Centre to cheer his every throw at the national men's curling championship, which opens Saturday.

All Gushue needs to do now is

outlast a strong field and hope that a lingering left hip/groin injury doesn't flare up.

"It isn't where I want it, there's no doubt about it," he said. "And I don't think it will get to where I'd like it to be until the off-season when I'm not curling and I can spend all of my energy getting it stronger."

The injury kept Gushue off the ice for a few months at the start of the season but he has impressed since his return in December. He has continued his regular gym work and stretching routines to keep the affected

area as strong as possible.

Gushue doesn't expect the injury to impact his performance, but admits he's a little worried about the length of the competition.

"It is what it is and we'll get through it," he said. "It's not going to stop me from playing."

Gushue made it to the final last year in Ottawa before falling to Kevin Koe, who returns this year as the Team Canada entry. Other teams expected to be in the playoff mix include Manitoba's Mike McEwen, Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs, Ontario's

Glenn Howard and John Morris of British Columbia.

"I think it's a really tough field but I think we stack up great," Koe said. "To me essentially it's pretty much the same field as last year. A couple tweaks here and there, B.C. has a little stronger team I think with Morris in there. But last year was so tough and we managed to win it."

The Brier winner will represent Canada at the April 1-9 Ford world men's curling championship in Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Red Sox's Price feeling soreness in pitching arm

Red Sox left-hander David Price was scratched from his first spring training start and will consult with specialists after experiencing soreness in his left forearm and elbow.

Manager John Farrell said Price threw 38 pitches in a two-inning simulated game Tuesday and felt no discomfort until Wednesday morning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bogut switches sides in Cavs-Warriors rivalry

Andrew Bogut has changed jerseys — and perhaps sides in the NBA Finals.

The free agent centre, who played for the Warriors the past four seasons, signed Thursday with the Cleveland Cavaliers, joining the team he faced the past two Junes with a championship on the line.

Also Thursday, Golden State signed forward Matt Barnes, adding the edgy veteran after losing Kevin Durant to a knee injury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Torres head injury 'was just a scare'

Atletico Madrid striker Fernando Torres tweeted from hospital that he was OK after collapsing and losing consciousness from a clash of heads in a Spanish league game on Thursday.

"It was just a scare," Torres wrote on Twitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bell Centre show P.K. love

The tears came even as P.K. Subban smiled and waved to the Bell Centre fans.

Tears streaked his cheeks as the former Canadiens defenceman got a long standing ovation before his first game back in Montreal as a Nashville Predator on Thursday night.

Chants of "P.K., P.K." filled the 21,000 seat arena as a montage of his flashy moves as a Canadien from 2009 until 2016 played above the ice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



P.K. Subban
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Huskies hungry for fifth straight title

AUS BASKETBALL

SMU women earned bye into semifinals



Jonathan Briggs
For Metro | Halifax

The Saint Mary's women's basketball team was focused

on one thing all season: getting a first-round bye in the Atlantic University Sport championship.

After finishing in first place with 40 points, the same amount as the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds, the Huskies secured the bye but won't know until Friday afternoon who they'll play in the semifinal 24 hours later.

"You sort of work all year to try and get yourself in that position," said Huskies head coach

Scott Munro. "Any time you can play two games instead of three, there's a benefit, especially on that third day."

This season marks the fifth straight season the Huskies have finished first and secured the bye. The previous four years have resulted in AUS championships.

The sixth-place Memorial Sea-Hawks finished 10 points behind the Huskies, the lowest margin between the six playoff teams in the past five seasons.



As long as we stick to our principles, I think we'll be fine.

Angelina Carvery

Fifth-year Huskies guard Angelina Carvery is the only player on the roster who has been on all four AUS championship teams. She knows this is her last year

and anything can happen in a short tournament.

"It may have always been this competitive, but I didn't really take in the seriousness of it because I knew that I'd always get the opportunity to come back and play again," said Carvery who was AUS tournament MVP the past two years.

The Huskies will face Friday's winner of the Acadia Axewomen and the UPEI Panthers game on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Scotia-

bank Centre. The Huskies swept the Axewomen in four games in the regular season. The Panthers and Huskies split two regular-season games, most recently a 59-57 UPEI win on Jan. 28.

On the other side of the bracket, the winner of the quarter-final between the Sea-Hawks and Cape Breton Capers takes on the Reds in the second semifinal on Saturday at 3 p.m. The championship game takes place Sunday at 1 p.m.

Game on.



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PHOTO: NAVA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



- 1/4 tsp chili powder
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- 1/2 cup shaved cheddar

You won't miss the meat but will love the spice blend of cumin, chili and paprika that give this retro comfort meal an injection of tame heat. Don't forget the napkins.

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Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 chopped red pepper
- 2 (14 oz) cans black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 oz) can of chick peas, rinsed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp cumin

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and peppers.

2. Sauté until the vegetables are softened.

3. Add the beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, cumin, chili powder, paprika and salt.

4. Simmer for 15 minutes. Serve on toasted whole grain bun and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

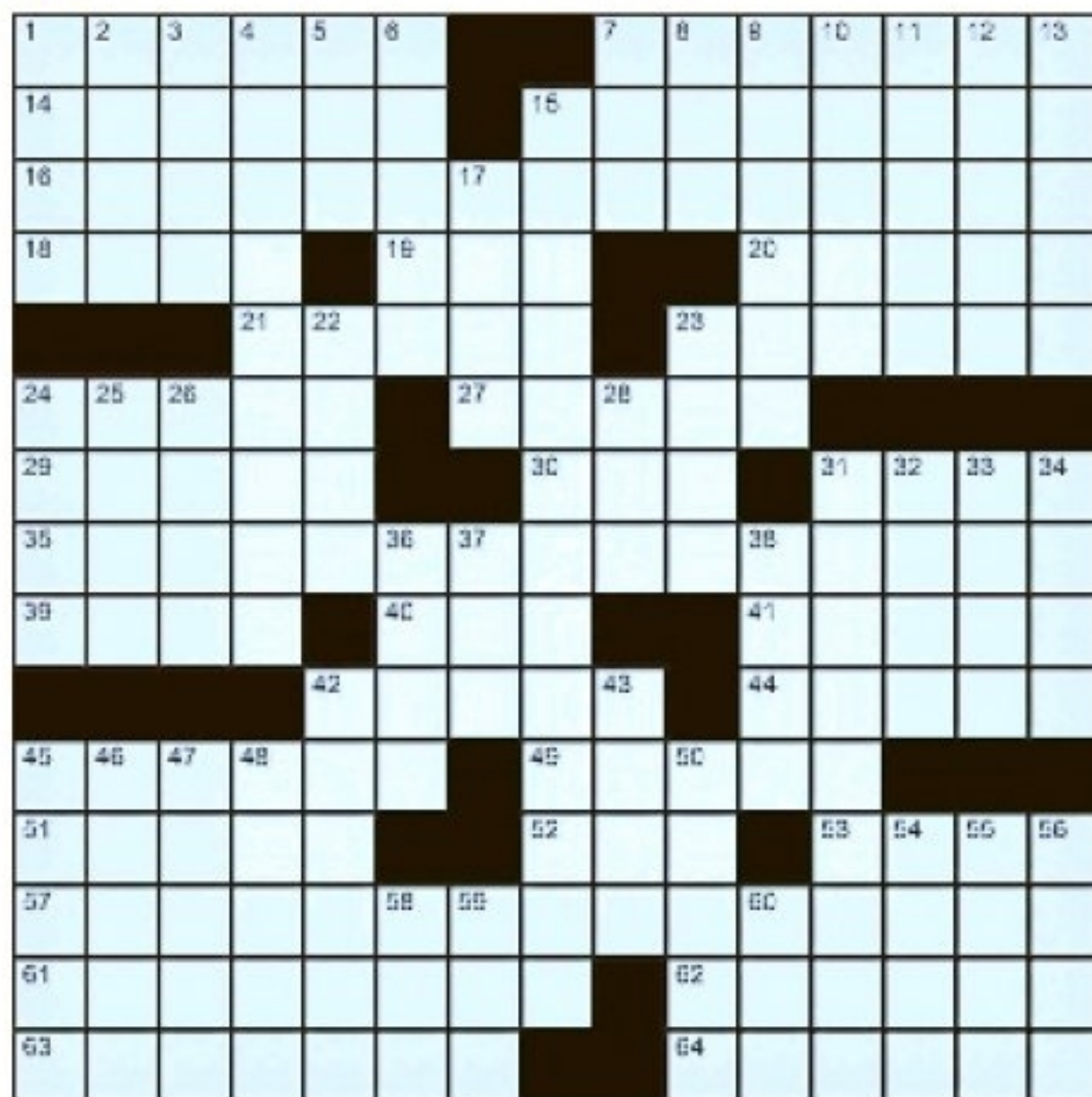
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ACROSS

- Garbo and Van Susteren
- Most quick
- Pick up on that sound: 2 wds.
- Go-with-coffee cookies
- Make a friendly gesture, as between neighbours: 4 wds.
- "Desperate Housewives" role
- WPM's "P"
- Freda of song
- Bob or Doug McKenzie
- Servings of chilled-in-moulds desserts
- Verboten
- Store promotions
- Glade target
- Assembled
- Director Mr. Mendes
- Titanic accommodation: 3 wds.
- Alternative magazine, Reader
- Ad committee
- Foreigner's "Cold"
- SNL's Mr. Michaels
- "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" (2010)
- Noon
- Record over
- Struck all of
- (Surprised or disconcerted)
- Web connect-or, briefly
- Near, fancy-style
- Earth is one, some believe Mars might have been one: 2 wds.
- Tolkien's nasty



- creatures: 2 wds.
62. Necklace piece to keep tiny keepsakes
63. Clickety-click-clicks - makes a mistake - uses the backspace key - then does this
64. F's music equivalent: note + word

DOWN

- President Reagan's Veep-turned-Prez
- Raise
- House's gutter locale
- Casey and Finnegan's set: 2 wds.
- Small island

- Layovers
- Terri's tail
- Residue kind
- Extents/ranges
- Entire
- Solvent sort, acetate
- Office item, pad
- Car's wheels

- Celtic family band from Cape Breton: 2 wds.
- Shoe width sizes, e.g.
- Dutch astronomer, Jan (b.1900 - d.1992)
- Transports for ritzy travellers

- Bean curd
- Mine passage
- "Free" (1966)
- Guitar legend Mr. Paul
- Mount in Alberta; or, Gaelic word for an outsider (Jamie's nickname for Claire) on Scottish Highlands set series "Outlander" on Showcase
- Somewhat: 2 wds.
- Detroit, _
- Snick-or-
- Bok (Stir-fry ingredient)
- "Full House" star Ms. Loughlin, briefly
- Cleveland basketballers, briefly
- Easily portable computer
- Gaelic
- "Real Time with Bill"
- 2005: "Can _ It Like That" by Pharrell feat. Gwen Stefani
- Money-spent transaction
- Mail (British newspaper)
- Genesis fruit
- "Dinka Doo" by Jimmy Durante
- Will of "The Waltons"
- ://www's start
- Sister Sledge's "We _ Family"
- Guess Who's lead singer's initials-sharers
- Alamos, New Mexico

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might see new uses for something that you own today. Some of you will even see new ways to make money. Clever you! Ka-ching!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Take a realistic look in the mirror today, and ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance. How can you create a better impression on your world?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something powerful and secretive is present in your life today. If you are focused and aware, whatever it is might introduce improvements into your world.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will attract someone powerful to you. This might be a pleasant experience — or not.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your relationships with bosses, parents and VIPs will be intense and direct today. However, the outcome will be that the relationship is superior.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might have a powerful discussion with someone about politics, religion or racial issues today. (It's tough to keep your shirt on if you have to get something off your chest.)

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today you might see a better way to deal with shared property or something that is jointly owned. You also might come to a better arrangement regarding an inheritance.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with partners and close friends will be emotional and strong today. People will show their feelings. Fortunately, things will be better after the dust settles.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for ways to introduce reforms and improvements to your job or where you work. Similarly, you might even see ways to improve your health.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Romance will be passionate and intense today. In fact, you might feel obsessed with something.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Family discussions will be intense today. However, the main focus will be introducing improvements to where you live. Don't get carried away. Avoid major theatrics.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You are so powerful and convincing today that you will be successful if you are in sales, marketing, teaching, acting or writing. No one will be able to resist your words of persuasion!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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